



**SEAC Meeting**

**June 10, 2020**



The **Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)** works alongside parents, students, educators, staff and the school board to identify needs, suggest improvements, and advance the interests of students receiving special education services in Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) to help ensure that students with disabilities have access to and receive an appropriate, individualized and inclusive public education.

## The Role of SEAC

## THE ROLE OF SEAC AND VIRGINIA REGULATIONS

The Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia reflect the state and federal requirements for the provision of special education and related services. The regulations mandate that an active SEAC exists, as well as specific functions of the SEAC, as specified by Section 8VAC20-81-230 D.2, which are as follows:

1. Advise the local school division of needs in the education of students with disabilities;
2. Participate in the development of priorities and strategies for meeting the identified needs of students with disabilities;
3. Submit periodic reports and recommendations regarding the education of students with disabilities to the division superintendent for transmission to the local school board;
4. Assist the local school division in interpreting plans to the community for meeting the special needs of students with disabilities for educational services;
5. Review the policies and procedures for the provision of special education and related services prior to submission to the local school board; and
6. Participate in the review of the local school division's annual plan.



## The Role of SEAC

## SEAC Leadership:

SEAC Chair

Sharon Tropf

[SEACChair@lcps.org](mailto:SEACChair@lcps.org)

SEAC Immediate Past Chair

Dr. Carol Williams-Nickelson

[SEACPastChair@lcps.org](mailto:SEACPastChair@lcps.org)

SEAC Vice Chair Planning

Shehnaz Khan

[SEACViceChairPlanning@lcps.org](mailto:SEACViceChairPlanning@lcps.org)

SEAC Vice Chair Membership

Heidi Bunkua

[SEACViceChairMembership@lcps.org](mailto:SEACViceChairMembership@lcps.org)

SEAC Vice Chair Communications

Craig Metz

[SEACViceChairCommunications@lcps.org](mailto:SEACViceChairCommunications@lcps.org)

SEAC Secretary

Kathryn Rosenbrook

[SEACSecretary@lcps.org](mailto:SEACSecretary@lcps.org)

LCPS Staff Liaison

Dr. Patricia Nelson

[Patricia.d.Nelson@lcps.org](mailto:Patricia.d.Nelson@lcps.org)

School Board Liaison

Beth Barts

[Beth.Barts@lcps.org](mailto:Beth.Barts@lcps.org)

## Introduction of SEAC Officers and Liaisons

# Public Comment



## Public Comment Process

- Hear public feedback to inform SEAC's work to advise School Board on special education needs
- **Focus on system-wide issues**, rather than individual concerns or specific situations (*please do not use student or staff names*)
- Verbal comment may be given. **Please complete and submit comment form tonight (please be sure to follow-up with SEAC Secretary with your written comment)**
- Written comment may be read by author or SEAC Chair
- Remarks limited to 3 minutes

# SEAC Chair Report



## **SEAC Activities:**

- 11 SEAC members participated in the Sprint 3 Focus Group
- SEAC Policy Committee met on June 6 to review proposed change to Policy 5310: Special Education

## **Upcoming Events:**

- Congratulations to the SEAC Excellence in Special Education Awards Recipients
- SEAC Award Recipients Recognition via a slide show tribute
- SEAC Award Presentations September 16, 2020
- Annual SEAC Survey – Published in June 2020
- SEAC Board Elections – October 2020
- SEAC By-Laws Review and Amendments October 2020

# **2020-2021 School Year September SEAC MEETINGS:**

**September 9, 2020**

PTA/PTO Representative &  
SEAC Membership Training

**September 16, 2020**

Annual SEAC Awards Presentation



# Reports, Updates and Announcements

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## Parent Resource Services

Leanne Kidwell (Educator) & Pamala Spiering (Parent)

[Leanne.Kidwell@lcps.org](mailto:Leanne.Kidwell@lcps.org)

[Pamala.Spiering@lcps.org](mailto:Pamala.Spiering@lcps.org)



# **Updates from Parent Resource Services**

## **❖ Virtual Workshops and Information**

- ❖ TIPS FOR HOW TO SUPPORT BEHAVIOR FOR LEARNING AT HOME.**
- ❖ HELPING PARENTS UNDERSTAND AND NAVIGATE SPECIALIZED READING RESOURCES FOR DISTANCE LEARNING.**
- ❖ PARENTING ADOLESCENTS THROUGH SOCIAL DISTANCING.**
- ❖ LEARNING TO USE THE TOILET.**
- ❖ <https://www.lcps.org/ParentResourceServices>**

## **❖ Keep in Touch**

- ❖ PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR THE MOST RECENT ISSUE OF KEEP IN TOUCH FROM 6/8/2020 AS WELL AS PREVIOUS ISSUES.**

## **❖ Summer Contact**

- ❖ IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE CONTACT 571-252-1011.**

# Reports, Updates and Announcements

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## School Board Liaison, Beth Barts

- The School Board meets at 4:00 every Tuesday. All School Board and staff members participate electronically from remote locations. The administration building will be closed. Committees are not meeting at this time but may in the future.
- Live public comment will be accepted virtually and aired in real time during this meeting. Citizens who wish to make public comment need to register by using the Citizen Participation link on the School Board page. Online and phone registration will be open till 5:00 the Monday before the meeting.
- The public can visit the School Board page on the LCPS website to see a listing of emails and phone numbers for their individual district representative along with the At-Large. The entire Board can be emailed at [lcsb@lcps.org](mailto:lcsb@lcps.org).

# **Reports, Updates and Announcements**

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## **Department of Pupil Services**

Dr. Asia Jones, Assistance Superintendent of Pupil Services

## **Office of Special Education**

Dr. Patricia Nelson, Director of Special Education

# Business



## Policy 5310

- LCPS is requesting changes to policy 5310
- Original drafted changes (draft 1) were provided to SEAC and the SSS Committee on May 13, 2020
- LCPS Administration requested to have the proposed changes sent directly to the school board for review and adoption.
- SSS Committee requested the recommendations be clarified and to follow VA Regulations and allow Policy 5310 to be reviewed by SEAC
- SEAC was provided with a second draft of Policy 5310
- SEAC Policy Subcommittee met on June 6
- SSS Committee will meet on June 18

- **Documents:**

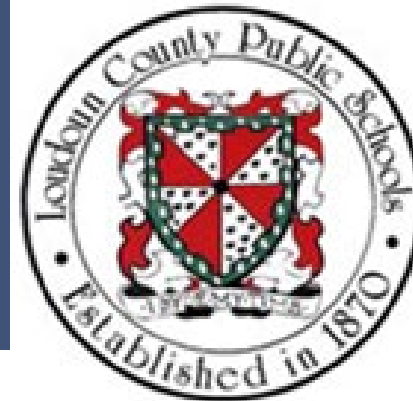
[https://loudounseac.miraheze.org/wiki/June\\_10,\\_2020](https://loudounseac.miraheze.org/wiki/June_10,_2020)

LCPS Proposed changes (draft 1 and draft 2)  
SEAC Policy Subcommittee Recommendations  
Special Education Community Concerns

# SEAC Special Education Advisory Committee

Policies, Practices and Procedures Subcommittee

Policy 5310: Special Education  
Recommendations





## Policy 5310: Special Education Review of Findings

The SEAC Policy Subcommittee reviewed the proposed changes to Policy 5310 and determined that it does not meet the needs of Special Education students.





## Policy 5310: Special Education Recommendations

### **Recommendation 1: Allow IEP amendments to be made without a meeting and to address community concerns.**

#### **Findings and Community Concerns:**

- ✓ SEAC Voting Membership previously voted against IEP amendments without a meeting.
- ✓ Recent unprecedented events demonstrated the need for flexibility.
- ✓ The SEAC Policy Committee has significant concerns related to representation of the Temporary Distance Learning Plans.
- ✓ SEAC Policy Subcommittee recommends that the Policy allow amendments and specifically address the concerns of the community and recommendations 2-5.





## Policy 5310: Special Education Recommendations

**Recommendation 2: Add Item 1: The document shall be developed by the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the Special Education case manager of the child.**

**Add: At any time, either party may request an IEP meeting.**

- Remove “LCPS representatives and”
- Add “and the Special Education case manager of the child”
- Move Item 3 to line 34 “This process is not a substitute for the required annual IEP meeting.”
- After proposed line “At any time during this process either party may request an IEP meeting.”

### Findings and Community Concerns:

- ✓ Draft recommendations are unclear who can discuss and write the amendment and the scope of the recommended changes.
- ✓ Community concerned that changes would be made excluding the parents.
- ✓ Parent(s)/guardian(s) and case manager knows the child's needs and are the most appropriate parties to make these types of decisions. Administration has shared this sentiment.







## Policy 5310: Special Education Recommendations

### Recommendation 3: Update Notification

- Add “and teachers of the child are” after the words “...child’s IEP team...”

Full sentence to read:

- “If changes are made to the child’s IEP, LCPS shall ensure that the child’s IEP team and teachers of the child are is informed of those changes.

#### Findings and Community Concerns:

- ✓ Concerned with all parties not being notified of changes to the IEP.





## Policy 5310: Special Education Recommendations

### Recommendation 4: Remove “upon request” and Add “with every change clearly indicated within the document”

- Remove “Upon Request, a”
- Add “Every change to the IEP shall be clearly indicated within the document.”

To read: “Parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be provided with a revised copy of the IEP with the amendments incorporated. Every change to the IEP shall be clearly indicated within the document.”

#### Findings and Community Concerns:

- ✓ Parents expressed concerns with having to request changes to the IEP document.
- ✓ Concerns with asking to consent to a document without clear understanding of the changes, this does not promote trust and transparency.
- ✓ SEAC has consistently received community feedback regarding having proposed changes clearly identified.
- ✓ Recommendation will also make changes clear to school staff and teachers of the child.





## Policy 5310: Special Education Recommendations

**Recommendation 5:** Add “The local education agency shall take whatever action is necessary to ensure that the parent(s)/guardian(s) understand and are able to participate in any discussions relating to the IEP amendment and are able to understand any documents produced before consenting to them. This includes arranging for other modes of communication for parents with disabilities (e.g., interpreters, Braille), or whose native language is other than English.”

### Findings and Community Concerns:

- ✓ Equitable access is essential and is required by the Regulations.
- ✓ SEAC has received community concerns about language and disability equity.
- ✓ The Policy committee strongly recommends clearly identifying what steps may be required to ensure equity and transparency.





## Policy 5310: Special Education Recommendations

### **Recommendation 6: Prior Written Notice shall be provided prior to requesting parental consent.**

- Add 4. Prior Written Notice shall be provided prior to requesting parental consent.
- Add Reference 34 CFR 300 .322(e)

#### **Findings and Community Concerns:**

- ✓ Providing Prior Written Notice (“PWN”) is required by the Regulations.
- ✓ SEAC has received community concerns that PWNs are often not provided before the parent is asked to consent to the IEP.





## SEAC Recommendations AND voting



### Recommendations

### Voting

- Allow IEP amendments to be made without a meeting
- The document shall be developed by the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the child and the Special Education case manager. At any time, either party may request an IEP meeting.
- Update Notification





## SEAC Recommendations AND voting



### Recommendations

### Voting

- Remove “upon request” and add “with every change clearly indicated within the document”
- The local education agency shall take whatever action is necessary to ensure that the parent(s)/guardian(s) understand and are able to participate in any discussions relating to the IEP amendment and are able to understand any documents produced before consenting to them. This includes arranging for other modes of communication for parents with disabilities (e.g., interpreters, Braille), or whose native language is other than English.
- Prior Written Notice shall be provided prior to requesting parental consent.





Sharon Tropf